

25 is described on the eleventh line of page 7. Accordingly, the specification supports the new claim language.

Amendments to claims 14-16 (now 17 to 27) do not present new issues and are made to place the claims into better form for allowance. The original claim elements (treatment with exothermically reacting acid and base; use of pipe cross reactor; enhancing the nutrient value) are maintained, and further elements have been added in response to the Examiner's arguments that claims 14-16 are of equal scope and/or broader scope than the prior issued patents. Reconsideration and allowance of these claims with added elements earnestly is requested.

#### Remarks Regarding Double Patenting


Originally filed claims 14 to 16 describe processes for preparing an enhanced palnt nutrient value composition. The added features of "spraying the melt from the pipe reactor directly onto a recycling bed of fines" (claim 17) and locating the pipe reactor "within the granulator" further distinguish the claimed invention and help avoid complexity, while decreasing costs and time. For example, other processes describe mixing acid and base in an apparatus where water vaporizes to push out material into a separation chamber in which other materials may be added for enrichment, after which, the material is removed and fed to a granulation device.

Another claim element (less than 149 degrees) from claim 23 distinguishes the process by its higher efficiency compared with many other processes. For example, hotter processes often require the higher temperatures and make a more dehydrated material, which is less suited for direct spraying onto a recycling bed of fines.

Because the new process claims recite claim elements that are not found in claims of U.S. 5,984,992 or 6,159,263 they are not coextensive in scope. Reconsideration and allowance are requested.

Respectfully submitted,

Date: December 23, 2002

  
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